(a) whether it is a fact that large number of children are borne with physical and mental deformities in the district of Jashpur in Chhattisgarh and in Gumla, Simdega and other tribal districts in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government intend to conduct some study and taken remedial measures to rectify the problems of these two States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c)As per census data 2001, the prevalence of disabled children in the States of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh is not high.

Pesticides level in soft drinks

1118. SHRIABUASIMAZMI:
SHRIAMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the latest study by the Centre for Science and Environment has found that pesticides level in soft drinks in Delhi is 22 times more than the standard set by the Bureau of Indian Standards, which is highly injurious to health;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government have taken against the companies manufacturing those soft drinks and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Centre for Science and Envoirnment (CSE) had released a Report on Analysis of Pesticide Residues in Soft Drinks.

In their report CSE had mentioned that a total of 57 soft drink samples of 11 brands were tested for organochlorine pesticides and organophosphorous pesticides. It has been further stated in the report that:—

- Average concentration of total organochlorine was 6.97 ppb in all the 57 samples.
- Average concentration organophosphorous pesticides was 4.88 ppb in all the 57 samples
- Average concentration of total pesticides detected in all 57 samples was 11.85 which is 24 times the BIS limit for total pesticide in soft drinks.

In order to examine the facts contained in the CSE Report on Analysis of Pesticide Residues in Soft Drinks, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare constituted an Expert Committee to examine the methodology of sampling, methodology of testing and validity, as well as the consistency of results derived by CSE

After detailed deliberation on the report of CSE, the Expert Committee concluded that the results and conclusions reached by CSE in their report cannot be accepted on its face value. The detailed report of the Expert Committee is available on the website of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (www. mohfw. nic. in)

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already constituted a National Expert Committee to guide pesticide residue Sub-Committee of fixation of MRIs of pesticides in carbonated beverages, fruits vegetable juices and other finished products.

State/UT Governments which are the implementing authorities under the PFA Act have been advised to ensure regulare sampling of soft drinks to ensure quality standards are maintained. A total of 155 soft drinks samples were tested by Central Food Labs at Kolkata, Mysore and Pur ,, as well as State Food Lab, Gujarat Between July, 2006 to September, 2006 and as per reports received from testing laboratories pesticide residues were found below the limits specified for bottled drinking water in all tested samples.

New cancer drug

1119. SHRIKALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Bangalore based drug manufacturer has succeeded in